

# ♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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April 2010

## Annual Town Meeting Coming Up

(Lamoine) - Three candidates seek two seats on the Board of Selectmen in the only contested race on this spring's ballot. Both Richard Fennelly Jr. and Kermit Theall returned nomination papers for re-election while William Brann of Shore Road gathered enough signatures to appear on the ballot. Running unopposed for re-election to the Board of Assessors is Jane Fowler, the current board chair. Election day is Tuesday, April 6, 2010. The polls open immediately following selection of and swearing in of the moderator at 9:55 AM. There are no other issues to vote on at the municipal election.

The open town meeting will follow on Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym. The very first article at the open meeting may generate some discussion, as it would change the due date for the first half property tax payment from October 31<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Budget Committee endorsed the idea for a couple of reasons. The date separates the two payment dates by 6-months, which presumably will be easier for household budgeting purposes. The other has to do with the town's cash flow. Because the town pays a monthly installment to RSU 24, a larger amount is due in the summer months than had been the practice when Lamoine was part of Union 92. Last

summer was a close scrape, and payments to the RSU were delayed until enough money was in the bank to cover the checks. The town did not have to take out a tax anticipation note to cover the payments.

Voters will also be asked to ratify several questions revolving around a regional effort to regulate shellfishing in Frenchman Bay. Questions on the warrant include approval of the ordinance, authorization for the Selectmen to enter an interlocal agreement to administer the program, and funding for Lamoine's budget share for the current and next fiscal year. See the article on page 5 for more information about the Shellfishing effort.

Three ordinance amendments are also being proposed. Changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance would set guidelines for commercial water extraction and clarify which home occupations need a permit (see article on page 2), and the donation review ordinance is proposed to be amended to lower the maximum recommendation to \$500 and add a check-off voluntary donation form to the tax bill mailing for qualifying agencies. If approved, that would start in 2011.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen will honor folks with awards for stewardship and citizenship.

## Might This Be the Last Open Town Meeting?

(Lamoine) - Selectmen are exploring whether to, and how to, ask for voters advice on the Town Meeting format. At least two Selectmen have been approached by voters asking that all town meeting decisions be decided by referendum instead of at open town meeting.

Lamoine is not governed by a charter, therefore state statutes provide guidance on most town operations. The statutes give the Board of Selectmen the authority to call a town meeting by whichever method they choose for the most part. A few questions, mostly to do with education, require referendum votes.

Since the town's founding in 1870, the open town meeting has decided the annual issues, though the town opted to elect its municipal officers by secret ballot back in the 1970s. The Selectmen have the power to call a town meeting by referendum if they wish, but the Board wants to find out if that is the desire of the majority of the town's voters. How to determine that is the tricky question, and it appears the Board may ask for an advisory, referendum vote in November during the Gubernatorial election.

Between now and November, some preliminary work will begin—not the least of which is how to ask the question. The Board will try to devise the question in a way that will allow the results to be interpreted.

Before the question goes on a non-binding ballot, the Selectmen hope to hold public forums to gauge opinion on whether folks would prefer referendum vs. open town meeting decisions. A survey will be distributed to voters at the June 8th primary election.

Supporters of referendum voting point out that more voters tend to participate in secret ballot elections, and the numbers are borne out when comparing attendance at the open meeting to the number of ballots cast during the municipal election. They also say that some people feel intimidated at the open meeting as their friends and neighbors can see how they are voting. Absentee balloting would be allowed.

Supporters of open town meeting say the open meeting gives those in attendance an opportunity to clarify information about the town budget. Amendments can be made to proposed budgets at the open meeting. A referendum budget vote is a simple yes or no on the question as recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee. They add that a potential 35-question ballot could be daunting.

A few dozen communities in Maine decide the town meeting questions purely by referendum.

## Police Catch Town Hall Window Breaker

(Lamoine) - The phone call at 1:57 AM on March 27, 2010 registered "County of Hancock" on the caller ID at Administrative Assistant's Stu Marckoon's home. The voice on the other end was a dispatcher with the Hancock County Regional Communications Center reporting the town office had been broken into and requesting that he meet a state trooper at the scene.

On arrival it was pretty clear how the perpetrators got into the building—the front window of the main door was shattered, and the door was partially open, as glass pieces prevented it from shutting. Once cleared to enter, it was even more clear how the glass was shattered as two large chunks of broken pavement from Douglas Highway had been thrown with great velocity through the two window panes. One of them was a good 30-feet inside the building.

It was pretty easy for police to catch the window breaker—he had called 9-1-1 from inside the Town Office to report that a young female inside the vehicle he was driving was having an asthma attack. An ambulance took her to the hospital for treatment, Trooper Greg Mitchell, another trooper and a Sergeant were at the scene just north of the town hall and took two other young people into custody after the incident. The



*Glass litters the floor and carpet after two chunks of pavement were thrown through the front door window on March 27th.*

vehicle they were in was towed away. There was evidence that all had been consuming alcohol prior to the incident.

Marckoon spent about 3-hours sweeping and vacuuming up glass pieces from both inside and the entrance stairs to the town office. Calls were placed to a glass repair company after the sun came up, and a crew arrived to survey the damage and secure the door with a piece of particle board until new safety glass could be installed in the door. The office was closed for the morning while the cleanup was underway.

The carpets had to be replaced as well as the window. Damages totaled approximately \$750.



## Planning Board Rejects Gravel Pit

(Lamoine) - The town's planning board rejected a proposed new gravel mining operation by Southwest Harbor based Doug Gott & Sons. The company had proposed to extend its existing pits between Lamoine Beach Road (Route 184) and Mill Road to a parcel of land purchased last year. Both the applications for gravel extraction and site plan review were turned down by the Planning Board.

The proposal had been under review for several months, with numerous appearances before the Planning Board by Gott representative Steve Salisbury. At the public hearing in March, several neighbors expressed grave concern about the impact on their property values if a gravel mining operation were allowed to creep closer to their homes. The Board voted that the buffer of trees that would remain from the property line to the pit would not be adequate to provide screening required in both the Site Plan and Gravel Extraction ordinances.

The Planning Board also voted (3-2) that the proposal did not adequately protect the groundwater under the

proposed pit, and thus posed a potential threat to neighboring wells. A very detailed water survey was included with the Gott application, and showed a clay-like layer of material is acting as sort of a dam between gravel deposits, holding in the water in the aquifer from which the Cold Spring Water Company draws its source. Concern about that underground dam led to the groundwater protection vote.

Finally, the Board did not find the proposal in conformance with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, though the meeting minutes do not identify which areas of the plan passed in 1996 are not addressed by the permit.

It is expected that Gott will appeal the decision—the applicants are still studying their options. The ordinances give applicants 30-days from the decision to submit the appeal language to the town office, placing the deadline at April 1, 2011. If the appeal is filed in a timely manner, the Board of Appeals will have to swing into action for the first time since February, 2009.

## Home Occupation, Water Protection Changes Proposed to Building & Land Use Ordinance

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board and Conservation Commission have worked for many months to propose changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance to provide greater protection from potential commercial water extraction. A series of changes to address both threats to groundwater and the extraction of large amounts of water will be voted on at the annual town meeting April 7th.

The first part of the changes requires initial review of a number of items, including underground tanks, large septic systems, commercial and industrial uses by the Planning Board. If the board finds insufficient information about the potential impact of the proposal, it could order a review (at the expense of the developer) by a certified hydrologist or engineer. If the board doesn't deem that information credible, it can order an independent evaluation (again, at the developer's expense) to determine whether the project would adversely affect the underground water supply.

The same process involves large scale water extraction. The Board proposed a threshold of 122,000 gallons of water extracted per month based on a study of the town's aquifer by Willem Brutsaert (see January *Lamoine Quarterly*). Additionally, the water usage will have to be monitored on a month basis using a water meter and reported to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Members of the Conservation Commission approached the Selectmen several months ago asking for an immediate moratorium on commercial water extraction while the Planning Board was putting the finishing touches on the proposed changes. The Selectmen turned

down the request, saying the vote would coincide with the changes being proposed. The Conservation Commission has since endorsed the proposal. In the past 20-years, the town has not received any inquiries for commercial water extraction operations.

### Home Occupations

The other set of changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance involves home occupations. The present ordinance makes fleeting reference to in-home businesses and requires a Planning Board permit, but sets out little guidance on just what qualifies and what the criteria for such business is. The proposed changes give far better guidance.

The amendments will no longer require a permit for businesses that employ only family members and are secondary to the residential nature of the house. For instance, if a member of the family took in sewing to make alterations as a side business, a permit would not be required. Once an employee is hired from outside the immediate family residing in the home, a permit would be required.

Home occupation permits would be issued by the Code Enforcement Officer instead of the Planning Board, greatly speeding up the process. ore than one employee would bump the home occupation into the Commercial or Industrial regulations in the ordinance.

The changes also give the criteria the Code Enforcement Officer must look at when deciding to grant a permit. They include exterior effects (lighting, signs), other nuisances, traffic, parking and hazardous wastes. Conceivably a person looking to run a small business could receive approval in a day instead of months.

## School Scores Show Improvement

*By Val Perkins, Principal*

(Lamoine) - The Commissioner of Education released the Maine Department of Education's achievement and progress list for all Maine schools on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

According to this list, Lamoine students have shown an 18.20 percent increase in average math and reading scores over the last three years. Only 24 out of the reported 557 schools had a higher increase in their percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

The three year average of students meeting or exceeding the standards in these content areas is 67.77 percent. On this fall's NECAP, 75 percent of Lamoine students' scores were proficient or higher.

The staff and students are to be commended for their hard work which produced these results.

## Few Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Just 3 building permits have been issued since the first of the year, Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford issued the following:

No	Name	Project
1	Leavitt, James	Residence
2	Benincasa, A.	Enclose Deck
3	Peacock, T&V	Addition



*While housing starts were not particularly robust during the first quarter, crocus starts were as a mild winter and early thaw brought the town hall garden into bloom in March.*

**The Lamoine Quarterly**

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## Snow Plowing Contractor to Change

(Lamoine) - Selectmen expect to sign a contract with Richard McMullen to plow the town's roads for the next three years. Mr. McMullen was the lowest bidder of three responsive bids to the town's plowing job. A fourth bidder failed to submit a price for the school parking lot.

That will mean a big change for both McMullen and the town. For the past decade or so, Nankervis Trucking has been providing the snow removal service. Selectmen, as they were debating the contract award, had great praise for the job that Nankervis has done over that time.

Mr. McMullen is no stranger to the town—he was born and raised here, and many have watched the 24-year old start and grow his contracting business since he was in high school. He will have to hire drivers for large trucks and is in the process of purchasing a pair of former MDOT trucks to take care of the plowing job. Most of Mr. McMullen's work has been done in the area of yard maintenance, though he has performed some road maintenance for the town in the last couple of years.

In awarding the contract to McMullen, the 3 Selectmen who voted in favor said they couldn't ignore the savings of \$21,000 over the 3-year contract period. The two who opposed the award said they were concerned by the lack of experience plowing roadways and that the town could be setting Mr. McMullen up for failure. All agreed though that his quality of work has been excellent in his other contracting endeavors.

## No Sort Recycling Still Under Study

(Lamoine) - A proposal from recycling contractor Pine Tree Waste to mix all the recyclable materials into the same container has yet to win the blessing of the Board of Selectmen. The company, which currently hauls compartmentalized recycling from Lamoine to Bangor, offered a "no sort" service for \$7,000 per year. That did not include cardboard recycling.

The advantage would be greater ease of recycling, and more materials accepted—including paper board and several other plastics. The cost is about the same as the town is paying now, but Pine Tree said more recycling could be expected with the change, and that would avoid the \$45/ton cost of throwing that trash out.

Maine Resource Recovery Association was skeptical about the amount of recycling increase with a no-sort system. Victor Horton of the Association met with Selectmen in March and suggested that an alternative might be to send the roll off containers to Coastal Recycling in Hancock instead of Bangor, possibly lowering the transport cost and keeping a revenue stream for the town from recycling.

## Transfer Station Privy Completed



*The Transfer Station "Facilities"*

(Lamoine) - On time and under budget—that's one way to describe the outhouse project at the Lamoine Transfer Station. The building leads to an in-ground pit privy for use by the facility operator as designed by site evaluator William Labelle.

The town had budgeted \$4,000 for the facility, in the hope that it would avoid the nearly \$1,200 / year cost to rent a portable toilet at the facility. The payback was expected to be about 3.5 years. Instead, the project cost just under \$2,500 and should have a payback of a little over 2-years.

Richard McMullen built the "one holer" in a competitive bidding process that saw three bids submitted. The town office fielded calls from several national contractors after posting the project, but when told it was just an outhouse, only local contractors submitted proposals.

## Flat Top 5K Results

(Lamoine) - A record field of 220 took part in the 5th annual Flat Top 5K Road Race on March 27, 2010. The course record was shattered by premiere runner Louis Luchini of Ellsworth who finished well ahead of last year's winner Judson Cake in 14:58. Elizabeth Brunton of Birch Harbor won the women's division in a time of 19:36. 8-year old Sam Pelletier of Ellsworth won the 1-mile kid's fun run with a time of 6:54.



*Louis Luchini crosses the finish line first, winning the 5th annual Flat Top 5K Road Race run in memory of Bill Pinkham*

## Selectmen to Finalize Tree In Road Policy

(Lamoine) - After a Mill Road resident piled limbs from a tree that fell partially in his yard and partially in the road, both he and the Selectmen asked what the policy was. The unwritten rule is about to become a written guideline for emergency responses.

In practice, either the fire department and sometimes the road commissioner cut trees out of roads if they were blocking a road. The trunk and brush was tossed to the side of the road, and the road opened up. When utility lines were involved, the response was deferred to the electric or telephone companies.

The new policy will put that practice into writing after review from the Selectmen, Road Commissioner and Fire Chief. It will limit activity on private property to emergencies only—private road owners will be responsible for cleaning up their own mess, unless there is some sort of emergency call to which the fire department has been dispatched.

In no instance is the brush from a blowdown to be placed in a public road. The town occasionally will hire a contractor to chip brush (it eventually did from the storm on February 26th), but does not make that a practice. In fact, placing such debris in the road violates state laws.



### ***Now THAT's a Pickerel!***

*Young Jacob Willard gets help from his dad Josh holding up the pickerel they pulled from Blunt's Pond at the Family Fun Day in February. The tourney was a success, considering the ice was safe that weekend, but didn't last much longer.*

## Town Wins Lottery

*For Speed/Radar Trailer*

(Lamoine) - The town is one of several towns that will get to use the Maine DOT's portable radar speed trailer this year. Lamoine will be able to setup the device on local and state roads in mid-September. Besides flashing the driver's speed, the device will also collect speed monitoring data which could assist with public safety efforts to identify where drivers need to slow down.



## RSU Turns Down Tuition Contract @ MDI

(Ellsworth) - Lamoine's Local School Advisory Committee will ask Selectmen to consider scheduling a special town meeting to determine whether voters want to raise about \$30,000 to pay for debt service at MDI High School. About half of Lamoine's high school age students attend Mount Desert Island High School (MDIHS), which is outside of Regional School Unit (RSU) 24. Prior to school consolidation the Lamoine School Department had entered a contract with MDI, obligating the town to provide transportation and to pay a 10% debt service surcharge in tuition. That contract expires in June.

MDI Superintendent Rob Liebow attended the March 25th meeting and told the committee that the towns that fund

MDI High could potentially give notice that Lamoine students would not be accepted if the 10% debt service is not paid. Two years notice is required before turning away tuition students.

RSU 24 directors voted nearly unanimously to not renew the contract with MDIHS. It costs more to educate students at MDIHS than it does at either of the two schools in the RSU (Ellsworth & Sumner). That cost differential is made up by Lamoine. The contract that was turned down also added the 10% debt service to that cost as permitted by law, but only if a contract is in place. RSU 24 Superintendent William Webster advised only the RSU can enter a contract-the town cannot. It's not known if or when a town meeting will take place.

## New Copier Purchased



### ***Lots of Copiers***

*During the bid process, the town at one time had three photocopiers in the meeting room.*

## Lamoine, Bayside Granges Merge

(Lamoine) - The name of the Lamoine Grange has officially changed to "Lamoine-Bayside Grange" following the merger of the facility on the corner of Lamoine Beach Road and Shore Road with the Bayside Grange in Ellsworth.

Charles Brann of the grange says the meetings will be held twice a month (the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7PM) at the Lamoine facility. The first monthly meeting will start with dinner at 6PM, giving members a chance to socialize before the business meeting.

The Grange is part of the national Grange organization which was formed after the civil war to provide service to

agriculture and rural areas. Lamoine's grange is the oldest fraternal organization in the community, and while membership is not as high as it was earlier last century, the grange is still a viable organization within town.

Brann said the Lamoine-Bayside Grange will continue to put on its famous turkey dinners in the summer, and they are thankful for the public support. Generally one has to arrive on time for dinner, because the seats fill quickly.

Anyone over the age of 14 is welcome to join the Grange. For more information call Mr. Brann at 667-7559 or Dan Pauls at 626-9308.

(Lamoine) - The town office is sporting a new photocopier these days, retiring the Pitney Bowes copier that was purchased in September 2003 about 9-days before the maintenance contract ran out.

The new copier is a Toshiba, purchased as a refurbished unit from Kinney Office in Bangor for \$1,995. Like the one it's replacing it collates, staples, copies double sided, and punches holes in paper. Unlike the old one, this one is also a network printer which can greatly reduce costs as the original can be printed on both sides of the paper. The new copier can also scan documents and save them on the town computers.

The town received nearly a dozen bids, the staff tried out three copiers, and the Toshiba, while being the lowest priced, was also preferred by the town office staff for ease of use.

## School Principal to Teach, too

(Lamoine) - With the pending retirement of Lamoine Consolidated School Principal Val Perkins, the process to find a replacement has generated a lot of discussion. The initial plan to share a principal with the Hancock Grammar School appears to have been scuttled in favor of hiring a teaching principal for the Lamoine School instead.

In a memorandum to the RSU 24 school board, Superintendent William Webster confirmed that after studying the

options, he has concluded that a teaching principal is a better option than sharing a principal between two buildings.

The RSU has four schools (Lamoine, Ella Lewis in Steuben, Cave Hill in Eastbrook and Beech Hill in Otis) that have around 100-students each. The state's Essential Programs and Services formula says there should ideally be one administrator for every 310-students. If Superintendent Webster's plan to implement teaching principals at the four schools is approved, the ratio district wide would be 1:210.

Superintendent Webster's memo states that "Teaching principals are common in Maine, particularly in districts with only one elementary school and enrollment between 60 and 150 students. Communities tend to favor this type of administration over a shared principal."

The RSU Board approved the recommendation for a teaching principal at Lamoine and the other smaller RSU schools at its March 16th meeting.

## School Budget Timeline Set

(Ellsworth) - The annual meeting to adopt the RSU 24 school budget is planned for May 26, 2010. The exact time and location will be announced at a later date—please consult either the town's website or [www.rsu24.org](http://www.rsu24.org) for as the meeting date approaches.

Following adoption of a budget, voters will have to validate the action taken in the open meeting. That vote will take place on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 in conjunction with the state party primaries at which the candidates for Governor, Congress and Legislature will be selected. All voters are eligible to cast ballots on the school budget validation, but only party voters will be able to cast ballots in the primary election.

While absentee ballots will be available for both elections 30-days prior to June 8th, the school budget validation absentee ballots may only be cast following the open district budget meeting (5/26). This will result in the town clerk's office having to issue separate ballots and envelopes for absentee voters opting to vote in both elections.



### ***Now this won't hurt a bit....***

*Nurse Carol Smith administers a seasonal flu shot to Harbor Master and Fire Lt. David Herrick during a town hall clinic in January.*



## Wind Wreaks Havoc



*Hurricane force winds brought down trees, utility poles and wires on Seal Point Road*

(Lamoine) - Volunteers with the Lamoine Fire Department literally had to cut their way across town as a viscous wind storm hit Hancock County in the wee hours of the morning on February 26, 2010. The first call for service came from a resident on Lamoine Corner who heard the explosions from a downed power line in front of his house. Responding firefighters from Shore Road reported a tree blocking the road by Rabbit Run, and the bleary eyed firefighters tackled that first. Other responding firefighters reported Seal Point Road was also blocked by downed trees.

As the truck and crew from Shore Road cleared that away and headed across town, they encountered numerous trees blocking the road—the largest a maple on Lamoine Beach Road (Rte 184) near Asa's Lane. Several other trees were down on Partridge Cove Road (Rte 204). At each downed tree, firefighters cut up trunks and limbs and tossed them to the side of the road while the hurricane force winds continued to whip.

While waiting for the crew to arrive on Seal Point Road, Fire Chief Skip Smith watched as several trees toppled both in front and behind his pickup truck,

bringing down utility lines and poles. His truck was not damaged, but he says it was a rather helpless and scary moment watching that take place.

Seal Point Road was partially opened by the fire department, but the involvement with utility lines prevented them from safely dealing with the blocked road until Bangor Hydro Electric could arrive—and that didn't happen for about 36-hours. Large trucks were not able to squeeze under the trees hanging over the road. A propane truck driver called 9-1-1 to report the blocked road, but at a different address. He was firmly advised that the road could not reopen until Bangor Hydro dealt with the wires.

## Fire Destroys Camp

(Lamoine) - A camp on Chickadee Lane in Lamoine was completely destroyed by fire on February 10th. The building had been occupied by marine worm harvester Richard Wallace who reported that he had filled a wood stove prior to leaving to dig so the structure would be warm when he returned. The wood stove operation was blamed for starting the blaze.

Passersby on Mud Creek Road spotted the heavy smoke, and when fire trucks from Lamoine and Hancock got to the scene, there was little left of the building.

Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford has written a notice of violation to property owner William Pinkham for occupying the burned building and another camp like structure without them being inspected, ordering the other structure vacated immediately until it can be brought up to safety codes.

## Fire Department Wins Federal Grant

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department will be able to add a new cutting tool and heavy duty vehicle lift bags to it's inventory of auto accident response rescue equipment thanks to a nearly \$15,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The grant submitted by the department last year, was awarded in February. The equipment should be ordered by May. The grant will fund a high tension steel cutter, and several lift bags along with vehicle stabilization devices, protective gloves and lighting. The department will use about \$750 to match the federal grant. The grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighting Grant program and is the first award for Lamoine's Fire Department through the AFG program, despite several past applications.

## Water Tank in FD's Future Plans

(Lamoine) - Muddy water and fire trucks don't mix well—the silt raises havoc with the pump system over time. The fire department is actively exploring a project that would install a 6,000 gallon water tank at the fire station which would be used to refill trucks after fire calls or training.

The Cold Spring Water Company has given it's preliminary approval to the plan which would see the water used on a fairly infrequent basis. With that approval in hand, the fire department will next work on designing the project and a budget. Funding approval and installation are not likely for another year.

*Harbor News...*

## Mooring Renewals Due

(Lamoine) - Reminder notices have been mailed to all mooring permit holders as renewals are due by May 15, 2010, or the permit hold risks losing space in the town's harbor in front of Lamoine State Park. The waiting list has been whittled down over the past two years thanks to the fee increase to \$50 and a requirement to have a registered boat to receive a permit. As of late March, just one resident applicant was on the waiting list, with six non-residents waiting for space.

Harbor Master David Herrick and Deputy Harbor Master Kevin Murphy met with Selectmen in January to talk over various issues. They've recommended that a guest mooring be available for rental to transient boaters arriving in Lamoine. The Harbor Masters will discuss the idea with State Park Manager Jay McIntosh in the spring and price out the cost of establishing such a mooring.

## Regional Shellfish Regulation Sought

(Lamoine) - The proposed 7-town effort to regulate the mud flats around Frenchman Bay is headed for voter approval in all the communities this spring. Lamoine voters will decide on the ordinance and funding for it at the annual town meeting on April 7th.

The 11-page ordinance has been developed over the last several months as a joint effort that included commercial shellfish harvesters and representatives from the involved communities. Beside Lamoine, Ellsworth, Hancock, Trenton, Franklin, Sullivan and Sorrento have been participating in the ordinance development.

The ordinance distinguishes residents from non-residents. A resident must live in one of the participating communities, and the fees for commercial harvesters will be \$400 for residents and \$600 for non-residents. Junior (under 16) and Senior (over 65) are half price. Recreational licenses limiting the harvest to a peck a day are \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. If all the towns

approve, license sales would begin on June 21, 2010.

The ordinance also sets out the rules for harvesting and authorizes the joint board to hire enforcement personnel. Fines for violating the ordinance are substantial—ranging from \$300 for a first offense to \$1,500 for subsequent offenses. Additionally, loss of license is included in the fine structure.

Supporters point to the red tide outbreak of 2009 which closed most of the Maine coast to harvesting, with the exception of Frenchman Bay. That brought out-of-town harvesters to the region, which put a tremendous strain on the legal sized clam population. Red tide has already closed a portion of the Maine coast this spring. So far there has been no organized opposition to the plan.

If voters approve the ordinance, the region will have to quickly develop a sales system that is uniform from town to town. One community will be the lead as far as hiring enforcement and coordinating sales and payments.



## Cable TV Operation Adds Equipment

(Lamoine) - Higher than budgeted revenues from Time Warner Cable has allowed the Cable TV Committee to purchase some more gear to produce television programming on local cable channel 7. The Committee recommended and the Selectmen approved the purchase of a computer that allows editing from portable cameras and raw video. The computer has already been used to more slickly produce the video from the 2010 Middle School cheering championship (see page 7).

The committee also purchased a second audio/video switcher. This will be used at off-site recording areas such as town meeting at the school gym so that more than one camera can be used at a time. Additionally, the computer power point program can be mixed into the video, which should make for a far more interesting production.

The staff has been working to install a light that will come on when the TV cameras at the town hall are on the air. Between purchasing and installing the needed parts and adjusting the computer programming, the system finally works, and got its first test run with the Local School Advisory Committee meeting that aired on March 25th.

The Cable TV operation is still in need of volunteers to produce programming both from the town hall and remotely. It's hoped that the committee can start producing some historical programming with the assistance of the Historical Society.



*Engineer Bill Ducharme installs the hardware needed to show the Cable TV cameras are on the air.*

## Town Hall now Wi-Fi Hot Spot

(Lamoine) - If you see vehicles parked at the town hall after hours, chances are it's folks with laptop computers taking advantage of the new Wi-Fi hot spot router installed in March.

The Cable TV Committee recommended and the Selectmen approved purchase of the relatively inexpensive router to offer high speed service to folks in the parking area around the town hall.

The coverage doesn't quite make it to the General Store parking lot.

Within a few hours of the spot becoming live, folks were taking advantage of the free access. Logging on requires no password. The wireless network name is simply "lamoine". The connection does not include the town hall's internal network which is off limits for security reasons.

## Cellular Telephone Tower On Its Way

(Lamoine) - With any luck at all, cell phone dead spots in Lamoine should start to disappear in late April. Verizon Wireless has informed the town that the tower being placed on municipally owned land near the former landfill was on its way in late March.

The site was cleared in December, the cement pad poured, and conduit installed for the various electrical and communications lines that will be run once the tower and building are placed at the site. Power lines have been run up the old dump road, and a new utility pole was installed by Bangor Hydro on Lamoine Beach Road to serve the facility. The Selectmen signed several easements and lease amendments to properly site the tower and building which were approved in July 2009 by the Planning Board.

The new tower is expected to be around 185-feet tall with a flashing light at the top which will be shielded at the base, but visible to air traffic that might be approaching or leaving the Hancock County Airport in Trenton. It

will be far and away the tallest structure in town.

Lamoine will see \$12,000 per year in revenue for the first five years from the lease of the land to Verizon. Additionally, the personal property at the site will generate property tax revenues. Most importantly, though, is that cellular phone service will be available on a consistent basis to parts of the town where it currently is non-existent.



*The electrical entrance for the new cell phone facility near the former town landfill is in place awaiting the tower's arrival*

## The Quest for Broadband

(Lamoine) - A huge impediment to small business locating in rural Maine is the lack of high speed internet or broadband service. Hardly a week goes by at the town office without a call from someone living beyond the coverage of Time Warner's cable TV system seeking a way to get high speed Internet.

To that end, Selectmen invited representatives of Axiom Technology to meet with them and submit a ConnectME grant to try to expand wireless broadband opportunities in town. The presentation was extremely informative and brought out that competing wireless technology may already be available in town. Residents of Lydia's Lane attended a couple of meetings, saying that had they known they could not get high speed Internet, they would not have decided to live where they do. Axiom has submitted a grant to the ConnectME program to expand wireless broadband offerings in both Lamoine and Hancock. This involves installation of a transmission tower somewhere in town, and a number of small antenna hops.

Other companies apparently offering wireless Internet in Lamoine include Red Zone in the Rockland area and Premium Choice from Bangor. Red Zone's coverage map shows only a portion of town covered, and Premium Choice's map does not yet extend into Lamoine. One of the residents on Lydia's Lane reported that they were able to get hooked up to Red Zone.

## Get Your Town Report

(Lamoine) - While it might not be the most exciting reading, we highly encourage you pick up the 2009 Lamoine Town Report prior to the annual town meeting. Filled with facts and figures from all the activity that took place during the calendar year 2009, the Town Report is also a great resource to bring to



the annual town meeting on April 7th, as the town meeting warrant and budget are included.

The 2009 edition contains the entire audit report, and adds reports this year from the Health Officer, Harbor Master, Registrar of Voters and the Animal Control Officer. There are some interesting historical notes from the Lamoine Historical Society, and lots of pictures taken around town during 2009.

This year's report cover features the sculpture installed at Lamoine State Park last November and is printed in color for the 2nd straight year. Xpress Copy of Portland produced 500 copies at the same rate as last year's print run.



## Did You Know.....

(Lamoine) - The Town of Lamoine is officially 140-years old this year. According to information from the State of Maine, Lamoine's incorporation was approved by the Legislature on February 11, 1870.

Selectman Cynthia Donaldson brought a cake to the Selectmen's meeting on February 11th, and those in attendance were offered a slice to mark the occasion.

## Cheer Team Wins 10th Straight

(Lamoine) - Cheerleaders at the Lamoine Consolidated School posted yet another win at this year's Middle School Competition at the Bangor Auditorium. It's the 10th year in a row a Lamoine team has danced, tumbled, and cheered their way to first in their division. This year's coach, Kim Tupper, is in her 2nd year and was part of the first squad to win a state



### State Champs Again!

Back (l-r) Alexandra Fitch, Mairi Manring, Karla Butler, Brittany Handy, Geni Goebel, coach Kim Tupper. Front (l-r) Tessa Ditton, Erin White, Kayla Perry, Jane Parlee

title in 2000. Former coach Cori-Lynn Noddin who started the streak is now the Varsity Coach at Ellsworth High School where five Lamoine alum were on this year's squad that placed 2nd among Maine Varsity teams and 5th best in New England in their division.

## Census Workers Tested @ Town Hall

(Lamoine) - Thursdays at the town hall in Lamoine have seen a few people drop in to become enumerators for the US Census Bureau. Applications and testing will likely continue through mid-April. Folks interested in the jobs are encouraged to arrive by 9:00 AM.

## Despite Address, You Will Be Counted

(Lamoine) - Several households in Lamoine have received census forms with Ellsworth in the mailing address. The Census Bureau assures the town office that

## Dickey Awarded Eagle Scout Badge

(Lamoine) - Will Dickey of Shore Road received his Eagle Scout badge at a ceremony in Ellsworth in mid-March. A few days later he picked up an official commendation for his achievement from the Board of Selectmen.

Eagle is the highest rank of Boy Scout, and several Lamoine scouts have achieved that status in the past 30-years. Scouts are required to complete a project that receives approval from scout leaders. Mr. Dickey's project involved replacing the recycling building at the

Lamoine Consolidated School. He coordinated the project, lined up contributions of materials and labor, and the building was completed late last year.

Will is the son of William and Tammy Dickey and will graduate from Mt. Desert Island High School in June.



Eagle Scout Will Dickey receives a certificate of commendation from the Board of Selectmen at the March 18, 2010 meeting

## Returnables Continue to Raise \$\$

(Lamoine) - Returnable bottles and cans collected at the transfer station have paid out \$231.00 to the Historical Society, \$181.20 to the utility pole flag display program, and \$147.15 to the Parks Commission. Since the program's inception nearly \$2,300 has been paid to qualifying applicants. Beneficiaries coming up include the Conservation Commission, the 8th grade class, Cub Scout Pack 88, the cheering program, the PATRONS, and the Historical Society again).

## 8th Grade Class Plans Trip

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Consolidated School class of 2010 outlined their class trip plans to Selectmen in March. The class has been busy raising the nearly \$6,000 needed to head to the Portland area, spend a day at Funtown USA in Saco, and then head to Boston. As noted above, returnable collections in March will be donated to the class trip, and several sizable donations have come in since the presentation to help out. Another fund raiser will be held in conjunction with town meeting—the 8th grade will prepare and sell hot dogs, nachos, deserts, and maybe even have an ice cream sundae bar prior to the beginning of town meeting. There are 16 students in this year's 8th grade class.

## Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - We welcome three babies this quarter. **Cooper Evan Norris** was born in Ellsworth on January 28th. Twin sisters **Brooklyn Renee and Chelsea Rose Knight** were born in Ellsworth on March 9th. Their 3-yr old brother made state headlines a week later when he went for a walk in the woods with their dog and a massive search followed. He was found safe by neighbor **Herbie Gordon**.

We lost **Radah Schmidt** of Buttermilk Road on January 19th at age 84. **Natalie Barr** of Meadow Point Road passed away February 9th at age 85.

Congratulations to **Matthew & Beth Beaulieu** who were married at the town office on March 1st.

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching

(Lamoine) - Attention college students—the deadline to be considered for the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Scholarship is June 1st. More than \$10-thousand dollars in scholarship could be awarded this year from the fund left in trust by Dr. and Mrs. Hodgkins.

The scholarship application is posted on the town's website (look under the "newsworthy" column). The link will take you directly to the application.

The Board of Selectmen will review the applications and forward the awards to the Maine Community Foundation which holds the funds. Students who are from Lamoine and graduated from high school less than 5-years ago are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by the Lamoine Town Office by the deadline to be considered.

# April 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20th—State Shut Down Day School vacation week—April 19 to 23 Board of Assessors will meet often for work sessions—check website for times.				1-7PM Selectmen	2	3-Town Office open 8am to Noon
4-Easter	5	6-10am to 8pm Municipal Election 7PM Fire Dept	7-6PM Open Town Meeting	8	9	10
11	12-5PM Fuel Buyers 7PM Appeals Board	13-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept	14-7PM Assessors	15-5:30 PM Selectmen	16	17
18	19-Town Office Closed (Patriot's Day)	20-7PM Fire Dept 7PM Parks Cmsn	21-7PM Conservation Cmsn	22	23	24-Town Office open 8am to Noon
25	26	27-7PM Fire Dept	28	29-7PM Selectmen	30	

# May 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The Board of Assessors will meet frequently in work sessions. Consult the town website for times and dates.						1-Town Office open 8am to Noon
2	3	4-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept	5-7PM Assessors	6	7	8
9-Mother's Day	10	11-7PM Fire Dept	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	13-7PM Selectmen	14	15
16	17	18-7PM Fire Dept 7PM Parks Cmsn.	19	20-7PM Biz Development Forum @ School*	21	22
23	24	25-7PM Fire Dept	26-RSU 24 Budget Meeting (time & place tba)**	27-7PM Selectmen	28-State Shutdown Day	29-Town Office open 8am to Noon
30	31-Town Office Closed (Memorial Day)	*Tentatively scheduled—please consult website for details **Please consult RSU 24 website for time and location				

# June 2010 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept.	2-7PM Assessors	3-7PM Selectmen	4	5-Town Office open 8am to Noon
6	7	8– 10am-8pm Primary Election 7PM Fire Dept.	9-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	10	11	12
13	14	15-7PM Fire Dept. 7PM Parks Cmsn	16	17-7PM Selectmen	18	19
20-Father's Day	21-Happy Summer!	22-7PM Fire Dept.	23	24	25	26-Town Office open 8am to Noon
27	28	29-7PM Fire Dept.	30-Fiscal Year Ends	The town office will NOT be open on July 3rd!		

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April 2010

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Cheering Wins 10th straight

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine  
606 Douglas Highway  
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